

Wycombe win but at a price—Samuels, Horseman hurt

Wycombe Wanderers 4, Maidstone United 1

PERHAPS, the main point to emerge from this match was the fact that Wycombe Wanderers registered their first win since December 2, 1967 when ironically enough, Maidstone were defeated on their own territory 2-1.

Against mediocre opposition Wycombe dominated the opening stages but their old habit of inaccurate finishing was still sadly apparent. In fact, one feared a repeat of the Old Boys' game as the Wanderers' forwards could not strike with any authority.

John Beck failed a late fitness test and young defender Micky Calvert was drafted into the defence for his first Isthmian League outing. Calvert quickly settled down and displayed some intelligent positional sense in the later stages.

Once Maidstone were behind they completely lost what little composure they had started with and their tackling at times was, somewhat, ruthless.

TONY IN PAIN

Wanderers' chief marksman Tony Horseman wrenched his left shoulder muscles after 18 minutes and spent the rest of the game in considerable pain. He was taken to hospital after the match where his shoulder was heavily strapped up. Keith Samuels received a bang in the groin which gave him more trouble as the game progressed.

A slightly harsh penalty award enabled Wycombe to break the ice in the 21st minute. Merrick's waist-high cross bounced up and hit Codling's hand and Horseman obliged from the spot.

Just one minute later Wanderers increased their lead as

Horseman's cross was misjudged by 'keeper Howarth, who made his challenge far too early, and Samuels flicked the ball home, being kicked in the groin and chest for his trouble.

A piece of vintage Wycombe football paved the way for goal number three. Faulkner broke up an attack and put Gale in possession. Gale slipped a pass through for Merrick to tap into the path of the advancing Samuels, who took the ball into his stride before crashing home a glorious drive, from the edge of the box, into the top right-hand corner.

Just on the interval slack marking at the back allowed Maidstone to steal a goal. All the Wycombe defenders stood still as Stollery floated over a cross and, although Maskell realised the danger he could not prevent Taylor's lob from going in.

Five minutes after the break Baker, who had been playing a more orthodox inside-forward role in a not so rigid 4-2-4 system, was tripped from behind. Horseman curled his 20-yard free-kick around the defensive "wall" and Howarth could only help the ball in.

Wanderers' work in front of goal is still cause for concern and, at times, embarrassment! The chief culprit on Saturday was Horseman who, obviously troubled by his shoulder, made a terrible hash of one effort from two yards — his shot nearly hitting the corner flag!

Wycombe Wanderers: J. Maskell; M. Calvert, P. Eyres; V. Faulkner, I. Rundle, C. Gale; L. Worley, B. Baker, K. Samuels, A. Horseman, L. Merrick.

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WYCOMBE WANDERERS broke a depressing losing sequence to beat lowly-placed Maidstone.

Tony Horseman, the inspiration of many of the home attacks, put Wycombe ahead in the 21st with a penalty. Two minutes later he supplied the pass from which Samuels scored their second-goal.

Five minutes before half time, Samuels scored again, but Taylor pulled one back for Maidstone. Horseman scored the fourth for Wanderers from a free kick just outside the penalty area.